

**CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN**  
**(*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*)**

**STATUS:** Endangered (35 FR 16047, October 13, 1970; 35 FR 8495, December 2, 1970) throughout its historic U.S. and foreign range except for the U.S. Atlantic coast, Florida and Alabama, without critical habitat (50 FR 4938-4945, February 4, 1985).

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** Large (up to 3.6 kg (8 lb)), dark gray-brown water bird with webbed feet, a pouch underneath its long bill, and a wingspan of 2.1 m (7 ft). Adults have a white head and neck, a brownish-black breast and belly, and silver-grayish upper parts.

**HABITAT:** Coastal areas, with nesting occurring on islands. Species found occasionally along Arizona's lakes and rivers.

**RANGE: Historic:** The subspecies occurred on the Pacific coast from Canada through Mexico. Breeding was only as far north as central California. It was found on the Lower Colorado River as an annual post-breeding wanderer.

**Current:** Most Arizona records are along the Colorado River including north to Davis Dam and even to Lake Mead (La Paz and Yuma counties), and Gila Valley (Maricopa, Pinal, Mojave and Gila counties) but stragglers reach most of the state (Tolani Lakes, Navajo Indian Reservation, Salt River, and other areas). Populations exist along the California and Mexico coasts.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Endangered as a result of reproductive failure caused by pesticides.

**NOTES:** A Recovery Plan was completed in 1983.

Recovery is progressing as a result of reduced pesticide levels.